

current events

This section carries events of interest to the synchrotron radiation community. Full or partial inclusion is subject to the approval of the Main Editors, to whom all correspondence should be sent.

APS explores higher current operation

A workshop was held on 10 January 2002 at the Advanced Photon Source (APS), designed to explore various options for increasing the brilliance of APS photons at the sample, with a specific focus on the option of increasing the storage-ring current. The workshop considered the pros and cons for higher current enhancement compared with other means of increasing the brilliance or other source improvements. Further evaluation will be made during the next few months in addition to a test run of higher current (up to 130 mA).

SESAME goes higher in energy

The Interim Council of SESAME held its seventh meeting in Amman, Jordan, on 17–18 December 2001. Professor Herwig Schopper, President of the Interim Council, chaired the meeting. Delegates representing Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, the Palestine Authority, Turkey and the UAE, the Co-Chairs of the Scientific and Technical Committees and UNESCO staff at headquarters and at the Amman office attended. Observers and invited guests included representatives from the Governments of France, Germany, Japan, Sudan, Sweden, the UK and the USA. A representative of the European Commission attended.

After listening to the report of the Technical Director and the Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee, the Interim Council asked the Technical Director to work out in detail his proposal to increase the SESAME energy to 2 GeV, which would require new bending magnets but no superconducting wiggler. This option should be considered as the favoured one.

Visions of Science: the BESSY SASE-FEL in Berlin-Adlershof

BESSY has prepared a scientific case, 'Visions of Science', showing the possibilities and future chances of a SASE-FEL. For further details, see <http://www.bessy.de/publications/01.felscientific/>.

Daresbury releases details of staff publications

Data for original articles have been compiled for the 20 year period (1981–2001) from the Web of Science for authors who were affiliated to Daresbury Laboratory at the time of publication. In 1981, the year when the Synchrotron Radiation Source started operation, Daresbury staff published about 70 papers; this has risen to more than 230 papers on average for the last five years. A total of 3371 original papers have been published with a total of 49375 citations, providing an average citation of 14.6. For further details, see http://www.srs.ac.uk/publications/DLstaff_Publications.html.

WHO initiative gives free electronic access to journals

Doctors and researchers from the world's poorest countries can now gain free access through the Internet to more than 1000 biomedical journals, following the launch on 31 January 2002 of the World Health Organisation's 'Access to Research' initiative.

The initiative – launched in conjunction with the world's six biggest medical journals publishers – allows universities, medical schools, research centres and other public institutions in about 70 developing countries to access electronic versions of biomedical journals that they otherwise could not afford. See <http://www.scidev.net> for further details.

SSRL prepares plans for SPEAR3

Plans and preparations for SPEAR3 have taken another step. SSRL users will not have access to beamlines during the installation and commissioning of SPEAR3, which is scheduled from approximately April 2003 through to January 2004. A subcommittee of the SSRL Users' Organization has been formed to represent users' issues related to the shutdown and to suggest ways that SSRL may be able to mitigate the resulting loss of beam time to users. The SSRL Users' Organization Executive Committee has scheduled their next meeting for Friday 15 March, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.